

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A method of treating hair, comprising applying to the hair a hair cosmetic composition A and a hair cosmetic composition B in any order, wherein

composition A is a first hair cosmetic composition comprising:

- (a) at least one polycarboxylic acid or a salt thereof, and
 - (c) at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of an aromatic alcohol, an alkylene carbonate and a polyol,
- at a weight ratio of (a)/(c) = 0.6 or greater, and

composition B is a second hair cosmetic composition comprising:

- (b) at least one hydroxymonocarboxylic acid or a salt thereof, and
 - (c) at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of an aromatic alcohol, an alkylene carbonate and a polyol,
- at a weight ratio of (b)/(c) = 0.25 or greater, and

the pH at 25°C of each of composition A and composition B is from 2 to 5.5 when diluted to 20 times by weight with water.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of treating hair of Claim 5, wherein component (a) is malic acid or a salt thereof, and component (b) is glycolic acid or lactic acid, or a salt thereof.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A cosmetic set comprising a first hair cosmetic composition A and a second hair cosmetic composition B, wherein

the first hair cosmetic composition A comprises:

- (a) at least one polycarboxylic acid or a salt thereof, and
 - (c) at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of an aromatic alcohol, an alkylene carbonate and a polyol,
- at a weight ratio of (a)/(c) = 0.6 or greater, and

the second hair cosmetic composition B comprises:

(b) at least one hydroxymonocarboxylic acid or a salt thereof, and
(c) at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of an aromatic alcohol, an alkylene carbonate and a polyol,
at a weight ratio of (b)/(c) = 0.25 or greater, and
the pH at 25°C of each of composition A and composition B is from 2 to 5.5 when diluted to 20 times by weight with water.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic set of Claim 8, wherein component (a) is malic acid or a salt thereof, and component (b) is glycolic acid or lactic acid, or a salt thereof.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein (a) the at least one polycarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of malonic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, phthalic acid, oxalic acid, malic acid, tartaric acid and citric acid.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein (a) the at least one polycarboxylic acid is present in composition A in an amount of 0.1 to 20 wt%.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein (b) the at least one hydroxymonocarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of glycolic acid and lactic acid.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein (b) the at least one hydroxymonocarboxylic acid is present in composition B in an amount of 0.1 to 20 wt%.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein (c) the aromatic alcohol is selected from the group consisting of benzyl alcohol, cinnamyl alcohol, phenethyl alcohol, p-anisyl alcohol, p-methylbenzyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol and 2-benzyloxyethanol.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein (c) the alkylene carbonate is selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate and propylene carbonate.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein (c) the polyol is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, glycerin, sorbitol, propylene glycol, 1,3-butylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, and polypropylene glycol.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein (c) the at least one organic solvent is present in each of compositions A and B in an amount of 0.1 to 20 wt%.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the weight ratio of (a)/(c) is from 0.6 to 1.5.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the weight ratio of (b)/(c) is from 0.25 to 1.0.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the pH at 25°C of each of compositions A and B is from 3 to 3.9 when diluted to 20 times by weight with water.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein composition A is applied to the hair before composition B.

Claim 23 (New): The cosmetic set of claim 8, further comprising at least one higher alcohol selected from the group consisting of cetyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, aralkyl alcohol and behenyl alcohol.

Claim 24 (New): The cosmetic set of claim 23, wherein the at least one higher alcohol is present in each of compositions A and B in an amount of 1 to 20 wt%.